Financial Assistance for Singareni Colleries

1090. SHRI N.R. DASARI:

SHRI GAYA SINGH:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Andhra Pradesh has sought financial assistance to revitalise the Singareni collieries which is a joint venture of the State and the Central Government; and

(b) if so, the details of the steps being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government of Andhra Pradesh have requested the Ministry of Coal for waiver of the outstanding interest of Rs. 663.34 crores due from Singareni Collcries Companies Limited (SCCL) which had accrued during the VIII Plan period on the loans from Government of India. A restructuring package including revision of the equity-debt structure of SCCL and the request of the State Government for waiver of the outstanding interest is under consideration of the Government.

Coal Stock Yard at Dharmanagar, Tripura

1091. SHRI KHAGEN DAS: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal for startin coal stock yard at Dharmanagar in Tripura soon as Coal India Limited's construction work has been completed in 1997;

(b) if so, whether the coal stock yard at Dharmanagar has started functioning;

(c) if not, the reasons for the delay; and

(d) by when the stock yard will resume operation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) In 1989, there was a proposal to start a stockyard at Dharmanagar in Tripura by Coal India Limited.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The stockyard was to be constructed by the P.W.D. of Government of Tripura. Money was advanced by Coal India Limited for this work. In 1992, it was decided that the responsibility of setting up and running a stockyard rests with the State Government. Hence the stockyard to be run by Coal India Limited was not built and the State Government of Tripura returned balance money to CIL.

(d) This is for the State Govt, of Tripura to take a view.

Excess Coal Production

1092. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that demand for coal is likely to be reduced by 30 million tonnes in view of the expected shortfall in the projected additional capacity of coal based power by 7000 MW by the year 2001; and

(b) if so, what Government propose to do with the excess coal production which is targeted to be 332 million tonnes including pithead stock of 25 million tonnes by the year 2001?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) and (b) Ministry of Power has estimated that new power Plants expected by 2001-02 would be 7949 MW as against the original programme of 18367 MW. The estimated requirement of coal for new power plants has, therefore, come down by about 24 million tonnes from 49.10 million tonnes to 25.51 million tonnes.

In view of change in demand scenario Coal India Limited may need to revise the coal production target appropriately.